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A.—(*a*) The function of the Committee is to assist the Principal of the College with advice in the matter of selecting students for admission into the College.

(*b*) No such communication from the Principal was received by the Government.

Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed :—"May I know, Sir, whether it is proposed to abolish the Selection Committee for the Veterinary College?"

The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"I do not see any suggestion in the answer to warrant such a question, Sir?"

Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed :—"I want to know whether there is any proposal to abolish the Committee, Sir."

The hon. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"Not so far as I know, Sir."

Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed :—"I want to know whether he will consider any such proposal."

The hon. the President :—"I think the supplementary question is far from the question put on paper."

Excise

Steps taken towards complete prohibition.

*750 *Q.*—Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have decided to take during this year the first step towards complete prohibition;

(*b*) in how many districts the Government intend to introduce total prohibition;

(*c*) whether the Government will also include the Kistna district among them; and

(*d*) whether the Government propose to apply local option in all municipalities immediately?

A.—No decision has yet been made by the Government.

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—"May I know whether the Government have not decided even to take the first step during the current year towards prohibition?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"No, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I know, with reference to the answer to clause (*d*), whether they are prepared to consider at least the question of local option in view of the fact that the hon. the Excise Minister has mentioned in his speeches made on the floor of this House that the policy is to have prohibition as the goal?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"No, Sir."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju :—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have considered the matter, and when they will come to a decision on the matter?"

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" As I said on a previous occasion the matter is under consideration and I think a decision will be come to as early as possible."

Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—" May I ask, Sir, whether it is a fact that a certain Prohibition Bill or a Local Option Bill has been prepared and perused by the hon. Minister ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I am unable to give the information."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I ask whether the hon. Minister has been saying that two districts have been selected for total prohibition being tried this year ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" No, Sir, not in that form."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, how long it will take the Government to come to a decision ? "

The proposed total prohibition of liquor and the means for making up the loss of excise revenue.

* 751 *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health and the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state— 11-30 a.m.

(*a*) whether the Government placed before the Finance Committee any suggestions regarding the ways and means for making up of the loss of excise revenue due to the proposed attaining of total prohibition at the end of twenty years ;

(*b*) whether Government have any intention of using the contribution now released by the Central Government for this purpose ; and

(*c*) whether facilities were given to the Finance Committee to meet at any time after its formation for the purpose of finding out ways and means for making up the loss of excise revenue ?

A.—(*a*) The Government have not placed before the Finance Committee any suggestions of the kind referred to. It is the Finance Committee which has, in paragraph 9 of G.O. No. 1576, Revenue, dated 17th September 1926, been requested to examine the question and advise the Government on the possibility of securing adequate new sources of revenue. No suggestions have yet been received from the Committee. No proposal for the attainment of total prohibition within any specified period has been formulated by the Government.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) The Finance Committee for 1926-27 considered the question and asked for further information on certain points indicated in item (i) under section (iv) of the proceedings of the ninth meeting of the Committee held on the 3rd March 1927. This will be supplied to the Committee as soon as the information which the Government have called for from the Commissioner of Excise, has been received.